



Sheraton Suites **Old Town Alexandria, Virginia**

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. *Virginia Green* has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, *Virginia Green* encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations; and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria

"The Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria is a 247 room hotel with 3,000 square feet of meeting space."

Green Statement: "We love our hometown of Alexandria, Virginia. Many of the hotel employees live and work in the area and we are committed to preserving the natural beauty of this city (as well as the earth) for future generations to come."



CORE ACTIVITIES for Lodging

“☒” This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green Lodging facilities. Participants self-certify that these activities are in place and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to the Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria can expect the following practices:

☒ **Optional Linen Service.** Virginia Green Lodging facilities must have some sort of system in place that allows guests to not have their sheets and towels changed every day. This facility pledges that they:

- Have signage in each guest room explaining the linen reuse procedures
- Change linens only upon request
- Train house cleaners on process for optional linen service
- Minimize use of bleach and chlorinated chemicals

☒ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green Lodging facilities must recycle and are highly encouraged to maintain a comprehensive recycling program. This facility pledges that they:

- Provide the opportunity for guests to recycle: plastic bottles, aluminum cans, newspaper
- Have recycling bins located: in lobby
- Also recycle office paper, toner cartridges, electronic equipment

Kitchen (or meetings/events)

- Have an effective food inventory control to minimize waste

Dining room (or meetings/events)

- Do not use any disposable containers, dishware, cutlery, or cups
- Use cloth napkins
- Use water pitches and filtered water to minimize the use of single-use bottles



Restrooms

- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Purchase recycled-content paper towels and toilet paper

Office

- Remove facility and staff names from junk mail lists when possible
- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Reuse or donate shipping and packing supplies (peanuts, bubble wrap, etc.)
- Purchase recycled paper with a high-percentage recycled content
- Make double-sided photocopies and avoid making extra photocopies
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible

Building and grounds

- Properly recycle and/or dispose of thinners and solvents (required by law)
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping

☒ **Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

Activities indoors

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have installed automatic faucets or toilets in public restrooms

Activities outdoors

- Have an effective landscape management plan which includes minimize lawn areas

☒ **Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives. This facility pledges that they:

- Use ENERGY STAR's Benchmarking Tools for the Hospitality Industry

Heating and cooling

- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Have installed ceiling fans
- Regularly perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system

Lighting

- Use natural lighting
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms

☒ **Green Events Package.** The facility must offer a "green" or "environmentally-friendly" package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided. This facility pledges that they:

- Promote the availability of "green meetings/conferences" in marketing packages
- We serve water in pitchers and glasses to reduce individual bottled water. We also use standard coffee mugs rather than disposable cups. We have a "no idling" policy on our loading dock to reduce emissions from delivery trucks. The refrigerators in our rooms are set to the lowest setting before guests arrive and returned to the lowest setting after the guests depart
- The hotel has allowed groups to bring in their own food from sustainable local farms.

For more information on the Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria, see www.sheraton.com or contact Amber McIntosh at amcintosh@sheratonsuites.com or 703-518-8794.

For more information on *Virginia Green Lodging* program, see www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/lodging or go to www.viriniagreentravel.org.



Virginia Green Lodging program is a supporting partner of *Virginia Green*, the Commonwealth's campaign to encourage environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. *Virginia Green* is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

